

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

160859Z Jul 02

2002HANOI01787 - CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ4359

PAGE 01 HANOI 01787 01 OF 02 160910Z
ACTION EAP-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DINT-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	FBIE-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/009W				

-----CBB745 160911Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HANOI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7037
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HANOI 001787

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/BCLTV AND DRL

E.O. 12958: DECL 07/16/2012

TAGS: PHUM PGOV PINS VM HUMANR

SUBJECT: ACTIVIST CHARGED WITH "SPY ACTIVITIES"

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY POL/C SCOTT BELLARD, REASON
1.5(D)

2. (C) THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA)
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PAGE 02 HANOI 01787 01 OF 02 160910Z
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT REPLIED BY FAX
ON JULY 15 TO EMBASSY'S INFORMAL APRIL 3 REQUEST FOR
INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATUS OF DR. PHAM HONG SON.
(PRESS REPORTS HAD CLAIMED SON HAD BEEN ARRESTED AFTER
HAVING TRANSLATED A DOCUMENT ENTITLED "WHAT IS
DEMOCRACY" FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY WEBSITE.) ACCORDING
TO THE REPLY (TEXT IN PARA 5), DR. SON IS ACCUSED OF
"SPY ACTIVITIES" -- INCLUDING TAKING MONEY FROM ANTI-
SRV GROUPS OVERSEAS IN EXCHANGE FOR STATE SECRETS --
AND IS UNDER FOUR MONTHS OF "TEMPORARY DETENTION"
WHILE THE GVN INVESTIGATES HIM.

3. (C) POLOFF CALLED SON'S WIFE, VU THUY HA, ON JULY
15 TO INFORM HER OF THE MFA'S RESPONSE AND ASKED HER
HOW MUCH SHE ALREADY KNEW OF ITS CONTENTS. SHE
REPLIED THAT SHE AWARE OF MOST OF THE POINTS
MENTIONED, BUT SAID THAT SHE WAS NOT SURE THAT SHE
UNDERSTOOD ALL OF THE DETAILS. HOWEVER, SHE DENIED
THAT HER HUSBAND HAD COLLECTED INFORMATION AGAINST THE
STATE OR THAT HE HAD TAKEN MONEY TO DO ANYTHING
AGAINST THE STATE, EMPHASIZING THAT HER HUSBAND IS "AN
HONEST MAN." SHE SAID THE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE
JULY 27 EXPIRATION OF DR. SON'S TEMPORARY DETENTION
AND NOTED THAT THE AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A
DECISION ABOUT HIM BY THEN. MRS. HA REQUESTED
EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE "TO PUSH FOR A POSITIVE OUTCOME"
FOR HER HUSBAND.

4. (C) COMMENT: THE CHARGE AGAINST DR. SON IS QUITE
SERIOUS, BUT IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE RELATED TO HIS
TRANSLATION OF PAS DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON THE
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PAGE 03 HANOI 01787 01 OF 02 160910Z
INTERNET, OR TO THE LETTERS HE POSTED ON THE INTERNET
ABOUT POLICE TREATMENT OF ACTIVISTS, INCLUDING
HIMSELF, IN THE DAYS BEFORE POLICE DETAINED HIM. DR.
SON, AS A REPRESENTATIVE FOR A FOREIGN PHARMACEUTICAL
COMPANY IN VIETNAM, PRESUMABLY WOULD HAVE HAD
LEGITIMATE CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS AS WELL AS ORDINARY
BUSINESS INSTRUCTIONS FROM THAT COMPANY AND PERHAPS
OTHER OVERSEAS ENTITIES. ON A MORE POSITIVE NOTE, IT
IS REMARKABLE THAT THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY
REPLIED VIA THE MFA, ALBEIT SLOWLY, TO OUR REQUEST FOR
INFORMATION ABOUT A VIETNAMESE CITIZEN CURRENTLY UNDER
INVESTIGATION. END COMMENT.

TEXT OF INFORMAL MFA STATEMENT

5. (U) SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON THE CASE OF PHAM

HONG SON

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MOFA
WOULD LIKE TO FORWARD YOU THE INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE
JUST RECEIVED FROM THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY
CONCERNING THE CASE OF PHAM HONG SON AS FOLLOWS:

DURING THE RECENT TIME, SON OFTEN GOT IN TOUCH WITH
THOSE WORKING FOR HOSTILE ANTI-VIETNAM ORGANIZATIONS.
HE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THESE ORGANIZATIONS TO
"BUILD THE FORCES AND WAIT FOR THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY."
HE PERSONALLY REQUESTED OVERSEAS SUPPORT
"SUBSTANTIALLY AND FINANCIALLY IN ORDER TO UNDERMINE
AND OVERTHROW THE STATE OF VIETNAM." COUNTED AS FAR
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PAGE 04 HANOI 01787 01 OF 02 160910Z
AS LATE 2001, SON HAS COLLECTED AND PROVIDED
INFORMATION CONTAINING STATE SECRETS FOR OVERSEAS
ORGANIZATION TO USE, PROPAGATE, DISTORT AND UNDERMINE
THE STATE OF VIETNAM. SON REPEATEDLY RECEIVED MONEY
FROM OVERSEAS HOSTILE ORGANIZATIONS TO TRANSFER
HOSTILE SUBJECTS IN THE COUNTRY (NOTE: MEANING
UNCLEAR. END NOTE.). WITH THOSE ACTIVITIES, HE HAS
VIOLATED ARTICLE 89, PARAGRAPH 1C OF THE PENAL CODE OF
VIETNAM FOR "PROVIDING OR COLLECTING TO PROVIDE
INFORMATION CONTAINING STATE SECRETS TO FOREIGN
SUBJECT; COLLECTING, PROVIDING OTHER INFORMATION AND
MATERIALS AIMING AT GIVING FOREIGNERS A MEANS TO USE
AGAINST THE STATE OF VIETNAM." ON 27TH MARCH, 2002,
THE INVESTIGATION AND SECURITY AGENCY, MINISTRY OF
PUBLIC SECURITY ISSUED THE ORDER TO ARREST SON. ON
2ND APRIL, 2002, SON WAS PROSECUTED ON CHARGE (NOTE:
PROBABLE MEANING: CHARGED. END NOTE.) OF SPY
ACTIVITIES AND WAS PUT UNDER 4 MONTHS TEMPORARY
DETENTION (WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE PEOPLE'S SUPREME
PROCURACY) IN THE INVESTIGATING DURATION.

SON IS NOW OBSERVING HIS TEMPORARY DETENTION AND
ENJOYING ALL THE LEGAL PROCEDURES APPLIED FOR
DEFENDANTS. (END MFA TEXT.)

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PAGE 01 HANOI 01787 02 OF 02 160910Z
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